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A THIRD

LETTER

TO THE

COMMONS and CITIZENS

OF THE

CITY of DUBLIN.



DUBLIN:

Printed by JAMES ESDALL, on *Cork-Hill*, 1749-

(Price one Penny)

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TO THE
Commons and Citizens.

HAD I nothing more to write to you upon, than to congratulate you, MY MOST HONORED FRIENDS and FELLOW-CITIZENS, on the pleasing Prospect of a speedy Restoration to your long with-held and suppressed Rights and Liberties, I should think myself well employed in conversing with you in this Manner. But, when I find Changes working in the State of your Affairs, of which it is highly necessary you should be apprised, though what I have to offer, from the Shortness of the Notice, must come in an indigested and disorderly Manner before you, I hope it will not be found unworthy of your Acceptance.

SINCE the evident Discountenance, You, GENTLEMEN of the COMMONS shewed the sinister, the clandestine Measures of the *Rulers* of our poor City, they never ventured to call you together, since the *Post-Assembly* of the 9th of *May*, in which they found you an Over-Match for their Cunning.

WHETHER or no the *Aldermen* are now prepared, to bring you to the Field of Action, I can not take upon me to say; but, you must judge; I hope they are not; else, I should not give myself, or you this unnecessary Trouble.

WHETHER the *Aldermen* have laid new Schemes to trepan you, or not, you are to be unavoidably assem-

bled, on *Friday* next. Never was it more necessary for the City, never more incumbent on the *Commons* to shew their good Sense, their Virtue, Freedom and Fortitude, than at this Juncture.

THE *Commons* were first made inconsiderable, by the wresting the Disposal of profitable Employments out of their Hands. This shocking Encroachment, the horrid Violation of your Rights and Privileges, in the Election of the *Lord Mayor*, *Sherif* and *Treasurer*, was established in the *Aldermen*, by the dreadful and detestable *New-Rules*, under the *Form* and *Sanction* of Law, to which, however oppressive and unjust, we must submit, till repealed. But, the Election of all the other Officers and Servants of the City, remain absolutely, incontestably, vested in you, if you have but the Fidelity and Fortitude to contend for, and assert the Rights of your selves and your Constituents.

THE principal Method, by which the *Aldermen* have rendered the *Commons* Cyphers, and by which, while they practise it with the usual Success, they may always keep them such; is by taking the framing and proposing Acts of Assembly out of the Hands of the *Commons*.

WHEN these *Rulers* succeeded so far in this, as not to trust the *Commons*, even with the framing *their own Petitions*, but, as at this Day, made *Petitions* granted and ratified them at the *Board*, and sent them, in the Name of *certain of the Commons*, to your House, when none of you ever saw, or heard of them before; it was an easy Matter to steal the Elections of all the Officers of the City, from the *Commons*; especially, as the *Commons* were made partly dependent on the *Aldermen* for their Appointment, by the *New-Rules*.

TO the *Aldermen* then, all *Candidates* made the first Application. They elected at some of their *Monday-Meetings*, entered the Election in their *Monday-Book*, and seldom, or never consulted the *Commons* upon the Occasion, but when they were compelled by contending *Candidates*. This is remarkable in the Elections

tions of Alderman Thompson; Alderman Ransford; and others, whom the Commons had re-elected; particularly the former, some Years after he had been elected by the Aldermen. It is also, as remarkable; that these Sages, finding the Commons tamely submit to their wresting the Government of the King's Hospital in Ouman-Town; out of the Hands of the Charter Governors, who are, and can be, but the LORD MAYOR, SHERRIFFS, COMMONS and CITIZENS; as soon, as the Ballast-Office Act passed, they took Possession of that also; and refused to share the Administration with the Corporation of the City, in whom alone, it was invested; till they were compelled by faithful and resolute COMMONS, and the unprejudiced Judgement of, what is not the Product of every Soil, or Season, wise, LEARNED and UPRIGHT JUDGES; as you may see at large in the PROCEEDINGS of the Sheriffs and Commons, and in DREYELINE LIBRA.

AFTER this, you may easily judge at what these Gentlemen have always been grasping; I am sorry to say, you may fatally feel, you must have unhappily perceived what they have grasped; or rather, you can hardly shew me, what they have not griped within their sacrilegious, their unhallowed Paws.

It can then be no wonder, that they have chosen many Officers and Servants of the City, or rather sold their Places, without Opposition or Controul; that they chose Forster, Recorder, without even the Consent of the Commons; nay, most audaciously, most impudently entered their illicit Election of that great Officer, in their infernal Monday-Book; with this remarkable vaunting, *the Sheriffs and Commons being absent!* And that they have in the like manner, and with no less Assurance, sometimes disposed of the important and valuable Office of Receiver-General, of the City Revenues, is as certain.

NOW, MY MOST BELOVED BROTHERS, and FELLOW-CITIZENS, you are come to the critical Period, in which you must inevitably prove to the World, whether you are HONEST CITIZENS, FREE AGENTS, WISE

and FAITHFUL REPRESENTATIVES, or *disbonest Sluggards, dependent Creatures, base and perfidious Traitors.* You can not say, like some of your Predecessors, that you were, like *Puppies*, drowned *before your Eyes were open.*—You now see your Circumstances, and can not be destroyed, unless through your own choice. The *Ax* is now at the Root of the *Tree*; Nay, with such success has the ALMIGHTY FATHER and PATRON of LIBERTY, crowned our Endeavors for the Heaven-approved Cause, that we have got a *Chip* of the same Wood to cleave the massive Block.——Shall we then, like *Crabs*, go *backwards*, and give up the Ground, we have thus hardly, bravely, though tardily gained?——God forbid!—This is the critical Point of Time. This, if you will, must hasten on the general Deliverance, from Slavery and Bondage, from Poverty and Ruin.

BESIDES the Place of *Alderman*, kept vacant for, or filled by one of your *Sheriffs*, as in my former *Letters* mentioned, of which you can not fail to take the recommended Cognisance, there are several other Offices yacant, to which, the appointing Incumbents, absolutely and undeniably belongs to you.

OF these, the most important and considerable are those of *Recorder* and *Receiver-General*. If these Places be filled with Men of due Weight and requisite Qualification, thoroughly interested in supporting and maintaining the Civil Constitution, and asserting the true Interest, Honor and Dignity of the City, and it's Members, *Usurpation* and *Tyranny* must receive an incurable Wound.

By considering the Nature and End of these Offices, you can best judge who are duly qualified to fill them.

A RECORDER is a Person chosen by any *Body corporate*, having Civil Jurisdiction, and a Court of *Record*, within it's Precincts. He is to associate with the *Magistracy* and *Common-Council*, to advise them, upon all Occasions, and square their political Conduct, by the general Rules of Justice and Law, and by the

the particular direction of the *Charters* and *Customs* of the Corporation.

OUR RECORDER is a necessary *Assessor*, or *Associate* to the Chief Magistrate and other Justices, in the City Court. And the *Counsellor* and *Speaker* of the Body-Politic in all Matters, and upon all public Occasions.

For these great Purposes, the *Recorder* should be a Man of the most approved Probity, as well as Understanding. He can neither be a just *Judge*, nor an honest *Counsellor*, who has not established the firmest Principles of Morality and true Religion for the Motives and Guide of all his Actions. He should be well versed in the Knowledge of the *Common* and *Statute Laws* of the Realm, but principally conversant in the *Charters* and Constitution of the City, in which his principal Sphere of Action is placed.

No wise, or good Man can enter into any Faction. This is for no Man more necessary to be observed, than for a *Recorder*. If he be bound down by any Attachment to *Party*, or *Faction*, he can not be a just, dispassionate and disinterested *Judge*, nor a generous and indifferent *Counsellor*.

If the *Recorder* should be a *Partisan*, or *Factionist*; in his judicial Capacity, you may expect he will, like some bigger *Judge*, with which our Sins have been sometimes punished; construe the unerring and invariable Rules of JUSTICE and LAW, according to the private Dictates of his *Party*, or *Faction*, by no better Rules, than those of Expediency, that is, *Inclination*, or *private Interest*: And as a *Counsellor*, instead of preserving that Equanimity and Indifference, which is absolutely necessary in advising all the administering Members of the Community, you will find him against his declared Judgement, perhaps, promised Neutrality, join with the most potent, or prevailing Faction, though to the overturning that exact Balance of Power, without which, no City can subsist in Freedom.

THE *Lives*, *Liberties* and *Properties* of the Public in general, are not alone dependent on the Judgement and

and Probity of the *Recorder* ; but the Well-being and Honor of the whole City must be, in a great Measure, intrusted in his Custody,

Who then is most likely to fill this great Office with due Dignity ? The Man of known Virtue and Honor, who has given the most eminent Proof of his Freedom and Independence, of his absolute Detachment from all Party and Faction. Who is above every kind of Sinister Influence, and most perfectly free from all *family Taints*, or *Status of Disaffection* to our Government ; or has so effectually performed *Quarentine*, since he left the *infected Quarters*, as to leave no room to doubt of his Purity and Integrity.

Who is most likely to serve the City with strict Care and Fidelity, and to interest himself in her Honor and Welfare ? Is it not most likely, that a Son of the City should be most zealous in these Points ? — No Passion more strongly prevails in a generous Breast, than the Love of his native Country. There is no small difference, with regard to the City, between a *Free-born Citizen*, or one *naturalised by Service* in the City, and an *occasional Freeman*. Remember *Solomon's* Judgement of the Child in dispute, between the real and pretended Mother, may be applied to discern a *true Freeman*, or Son of the City from a *Spurious*. And see that you prize this remnant of your Privileges properly, by disposing of it, as the true Principles that should actuate a Citizen's Conduct, most justly direct.

Is there then, among the *FREE-BORN SONS* of the City, a Man of a fair unblemished Character in private Life, of considerable Knowledge and great Assiduity in the Profession of Law ; and possessed of all the requisite, personal Qualifications for a *Recorder* ; descended from a Race of trading Citizens of the greatest Worth and Eminence, as well in public, as in private Life, and allied to another Citizen's Family, of high Rank and Dignity, of whom several, as well, as he, are secure of Seats in Parliament, and of whom it is critically remarked, that they never were

were known, in a single Instance, to vote against the Interest of their Country? If there be, you are bound by every Obligation, moral and political, to choose him. I leave you to find him, and judge for yourselves, as behooves honest, true *Freemen*, and faithful, zealous *Commons*.

BUT, be sure you instruct whomsoever you choose properly. Make him, and let him know, that he is, but an Officer *during Pleasure*; and tell him, that he must not therefore presume to neglect the Business of the City, for that of the *Bar*; as some have done, to their Shame, and the great Danger and Detriment of the City; and above all, let me recommend it earnestly to you, that you do not encourage, or admit any Man a *Candidate* for the vacant *Seats* in *Parliament*, or for the Offices of *Recorder*, or *Receiver-General*; till he freely subscribes a Declaration to the following Effect.

I, *A. B.* who stand *Candidate* for a *Seat* in *Parliament* to represent this City, (or for the Office, or Place, of *Recorder*, or *Receiver-General*) do faithfully and solemnly promise and declare to all and singular the *Citizens* of *Dublin*, their Heirs and Successors, that I am neither attached to, or bound by, any *Party* or *Faction* whatsoever, under a civil, or religious Denomination, and that I neither have used, or shall use, directly, or indirectly, any undue Means, or sinister Influence to engage any *Party*, or *Faction*, or any single Person to vote for me upon this Election; but, that I offer my self a *Candidate* upon true and disinterested, patriot Principles: Wherefore I thus solemnly engage and covenant to and with the afore-said *Citizens*, their Heirs and Successors, that whether I succeed, or not, in this Election, I will at all Times, and in all Places, during my natural Life, use and exert my utmost Force and Endeavors, by all lawful, just and honorable Means to procure a perfect Restoration of the Rights and Liberties of the *Commons* and *Citizens* of the said City, and a most speedy and effectual Redress of their Grievances, particularly, in the Election of *Aldermen* and in the Government of the *King's Hospital*

Hospital in Osmen-Town; That I will also use all Means, as aforesaid, to procure an Act of Parlemtent for the Repeal of the *New-Rules*, and every Statute and Ordinance, confirming, or tending to confirm the same, as far, as they relate to the Corporation of the said City; and also, to obtain such Alterations and Amendments in the present Constitution of the said Corporation, and of every *Guild* therein, as will, be most likely to augment, strengthen and secure the Liberty, Peace, Safety, Honor, Wealth, and good Government of the said City and all it's Members; and likewise to procure an Act of Parlemtent for the Recovery of small Debts in a summary Way within the said City; an Act for *triennial* or *septennial* Parlemtents, and an Act to prevent the Frauds committed by Bankrupts. These, and all other Matters and Things whatsoever, within my Power, which tend to the Honor and Security of his Majesty's Government, to the Peace and Wealth of his People of this Kingdom, in general, and to the public Emolument of this City and the Citizens thereof, in particular, without Regard to *Party*, *Faction*, or *private Interest*, I most seriously and solemnly, in the Presence of God, promise and covenant to do and perform, as aforesaid: In Witness whereof, I have hereunto freely and voluntarily subscribed my Name, this
Day of _____ 1749.

If any of the *Candidates* elected *Commoners*, upon these Terms, should transgress, it would be a sufficient Cause to prevent his Re-election into a future Parlemtent, and to brand him with due Infamy and Disgrace. And if a *Recorder*, or *Receiver-General*, either may be turned out whenever you please.

By this Test, you may judge of the Sincerity and Purity of the Intentions of your *Candidates*; and may exclude all those, that will not heartily and willingly give you this, or any other Security you require, for their good Behavior.

Nothing has tended more to the Impoverishing this City, than the Influence the Board of *Aldermen* have

have over the *Receiver-General* of the City Revenues. This Officer is, under one Title, or other, of considerable Antiquity, as well, as of great Importance in the City. To him all the Rents, Debts, Customs, Tolls and Duties of the City are generally made payable. He is therefore entrusted with the *Rent-Roll* of the City, and makes up all the Accounts of Receipts and Disbursements with the *Common-Council*, annually, or oftener, if required. By the *New-Rules*, a *Treasurer* to the City, was instituted; and the Election of that Officer, was thereby vested in the *Lord Mayor* and *Aldermen* only. But, as the *Assembly* alone could appoint Payment for the *Treasurer*, it was found expedient to let the Office of *Receiver-General* continue, and only oblige him to share the Poundage with the *Treasurer*, whose Office has, for the most Part been a *Sine-Cure*.

THE Office of *Receiver-General* has, for some Time passed, been, like other Offices, bartered and jobbed about, as the *Aldermen* have thought fit. I am well informed, that like the Place of *Alderman* of late, it has been sold peremptorily, or set for an annual Pension for Life. And I am as well assured, that it is now granted to one of the *prevailing Faction* at the *Board*, by the *Junio*, but kept vacant for your Judgment and Determination, by the *Lord Mayor*.

ONE of the Points contested with the *Aldermen*, while I was in the *Commons*, was giving us Copies of the City Accounts; which the *Aldermen* would never permit; nor would the *Receiver-General*, who acknowledged but the Power and Influence of the *Board* alone, pay any Sort of Regard to our Demands.

IF the Election of this Officer were restored to the *Commons*, he must have acknowledged other *Misdeeds*, and we should have learned how and for what, the City has, for some Years passed, been brought to expend upon a *Maiden*, above 1700*l.* a Year more than her Income; so as, within the Compass of 35 Years to run upwards of 40,000*l.* in Debt. But this

this is a Secret, with which none but the *Aldermen*, and their favorite, *secret-Committee*, are to be intrusted.

REMEMBER, when we were obliged to beg for Money to carry on the Suit against the *Board*; that they laid out the City Revenue, to the Amount of upwards of 250 *l.* to support their *Usurpation*, against us, and had the Sum readily advanced by *their Creature*.

As these are Matters, which must, if neglected, end in the utter Ruin and Misery of the City; it will behoove you to look narrowly into the Causes of our Grievances, and to use your Might to redress them.

GIVE me Leave then to recommend it to you, to do no Business, after passing the Petitions of Freemen, till you regain your Right of Election to all the vacant Places. Demand of your *Sheriffs*, a List of the Petitions given in to the *Tolseel* Office on the Quarter Day. Examine the Merits of every *Candidate* thoroughly and fairly. And then do not wait for the Determination of the *Board*, or for referring it to a *Committee*, in which they will always be too many for you; but, let true unbiassed Judgment and public Spirit determine You, as real Merit, or the Consideration of public Services, justly demands; and then reject every Petition sent to you, till you get that, on which your just choice has fallen.

REMEMBER how Rewards for public Virtue always excite a glorious Emulation to excel. Let me beg Leave to recommend an Action of your CHIEF MAGISTRATE, worthy, in my Apprehension, of the highest Honor you can confer.

You may know, that last Assembly, he had a *Committee* appointed to examine the State of the Laws relating to this City, in order to procure a Continuance, Amendment or Repeal of such Statutes, as were found necessary for the City to be continued, amended, or repealed; or to obtain such new Laws, as might be deemed expedient for the better Regulation, or Government of the City.

THIS

THIS COMMITTEE was called together and met: the Lord Mayor opened the Cause of appointing them. He observed to them, that he had made the Constitution of the City his peculiar Study, since he was called to the Mayoralty: That it was evident to him, that the antient Constitution of the City was overturned, and a new one substituted, which was most defective, if not corrupt: That the Balance of Power between the Aldermen and Commons, so absolutely necessary to the Well-being of the City, was actually lost: That there could not be a greater Solecism in the Government of the City, than the *Aldermen's* electing *Aldermen*, especially, as it now incontestibly appeared by the Charters, that *Aldermen* were originally created by the Citizens and consequently derived and held all their Powers from them: That the whole Kingdom, as well, as the Citizens exclaimed against the general Administration of the City: That such a Cry could not be raised for nothing; that something ought to be done to appease it; and that he could find nothing satisfactory offered for that Purpose, by the *Board*: That he thought it therefore incumbent on him, as chief Magistrate to lay these Matters before the *Common-Council* to obtain their general Concurrence in a Petition to Parliament to pray for a new frame of Government for the City, particularly, with Regard to the Election of *Aldermen*, for which he recommended the present Constitution of *London*, where the City is divided into *Wards*, in every of which, an *Alderman* and *Common-Council Men* are chosen, by the Inhabitants of the Ward.

THE general Conflagration could not have terrified the *Aldermen* present, more than this modest and just Proposal, truly becoming the Political Father of the City. Of Course, nothing was agreed upon, but to raise the Fury of the whole Faction against the *Lord Mayor*, for none other Cause, than because he dared to open his Eyes, to consult and exert his Senses, and to discharge his Duty. And for this sole cause, the *whole Faction* are enraged, and have

have combined to cross his administration, and in private insult and abuse him as much, as they dare, any other Asserter of Liberty.

I must confess to you, that my Diffidence in every thing that come from a *Member* of the *Board* made me, at first suspect this, something like the Story of *Tiberius Gracchus* the *Roman Tribune*; who, after being long opposed by the *corrupt Senate* in vain, was at last, with all the *Commons* undone by a stratagem of the *Roman Aldermen*.

THESE crafty Men, finding all other Measures fail, by their Sinister Influence raised a Magistrate, who so far outshone *Gracchus*, in his Offers and Promises of Services to the *Commonalty*, that they forgot their Obligations to the good old *Tribune*; whereupon, he fell into Disregard, and was at last, by a *Faction* of the *Roman Aldermen*, murdered at an *Election*.

BUT, with Pleasure I tell you, that I have strictly enquired into the Truth of this whole Affair, and that I have had the most solemn Assurance from his Lordship's Mouth, that he is determined to use his utmost Power and Interest while he is chief Magistrate, or a Member of *Parlement*, to reform the Absurdities and destructive Abuses, in the Government of the City, in all Points.

AND yet, for aught we see, this Gentleman is likely to stand single and opposed in all this! at a Time too, when two Gentlemen from the *Board* are using every Artifice to cajol the Citizens to vote them into the *House of Commons*! Not to reform the City, we may presume, since they, in every Instance, oppose every Tendency to Reformation!

DOES, not this extraordinary Instance, of the matchless Virtue of this Magistrate call upon every good Man to countenance and support him? And shall it be said, the *COMMONS* of *Dublin* will pay no Regard to so much Merit, to such steady Zeal and true Fortitude in vindicating their Rights?

—No; it can not surely be. Therefore, nothing less can be expected, than that you will dignify

him with every Mark of Honor. You now have it in your Power to choose him *Receiver-General*. He is proper Security, and is every way qualified for the Trust. And if by you invited and chosen, would undoubtedly maintain your Right to the Election, as far as the Law would admit. But this can only be done by your Interest and at your Request, not otherwise. To Men of a true sense of public Spirit and Gratitude, I need say no more on this Subject.

LET me now recommend great Caution and Circumspection in your passing the City Accounts. And see, that the *Pension* lately given to an *Aldermen* for a *Resignation*, in order to strengthen the *prevailing Faction*, be not introduced, as it was positively prohibited in the Court of *Darein Hundred*.

I MUST also recommend to you, my FELLOW-CITIZENS in general, to watch the Transactions of the Assembly in the Court of *Darein Hundred*; And if by any means a *Recorder* should be chosen by the *Faction* among their Creatures, or those that pleaded their Cause against you, in the *King's Bench*, prohibit his Petition in that Court, and then the Merits of the Cause must be heard, if you Petition for it, before the Privy Council, by which your Power and Authority in that Court must be Established.

I am,

MY DEAREST BRETHREN and FELLOW-CITIZENS,

Your most faithful,

And most devoted Friend,

And Servant,

DUBLIN, July 20. 1740.

C. LUCI

him with every Mark of Honor. You now have it in your Power to choose him Receiver-General. His proper Security, and is every way qualified for the Trust. And if by you invited and chosen, would undoubtedly maintain your Right to the Election, as far as the Law would admit. But this can only be done by your Interest and at your Request, not otherwise. To Men of a true Sense of public Spirit and Great Taste, I need say no more on this Subject.

I let me now recommend great Caution and Circumspection in your passing the City Accounts. And let me let the Reason lately given to an Alderman for a Resolution, in order to strengthen the prevailing Faction, be not introduced, as it was positively prohibited in the Court of Davis Hundred.

I must also recommend to you, my Fellow-Citizens in general, to watch the Transactions of the Assembly in the Court of Davis Hundred. And if by any means a Recorder should be chosen by the Tavern among their Creatures, or those that pleaded their Cause against you, in the King's Bench, prohibit his Petition in that Court, and then the Merits of the Cause must be heard, if you Petition for it, before the Privy Council, by which your Power and Authority in that Court must be established.

I am,

My dearest Brethren and Fellow-Citizens,

Your most faithful,

And most devoted Friend,

And Servant,

C. I.

Dublin, July 20. 1740.